Decline in Exports

28. PROF. M. M. AGARWAL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the reasons for decline in exports to other countries;

(b) the details of foreign exchange earned from exports during the last three years till date; and

(c) what steps are being taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH): (a) As per the latest provisional estimates available from DGCI&S, Calcutta, India's exports has shown positive growth against all our major trading partners except in case of Russia and Netherlands which have shown marginal decline during April—October, 2000-2001 over the previous year.

(b) The value of exports made during the last three years in dollar terms are as under:

Year	Value (in US $ Mn.)
1997-98	35006
1998-99	33219
1999-2000*	37538
2000-2001* (April—December)	32266

*Data for 1999-2000 and 2000-2001 are provisional-

(c) Export Promotion is a continuous process and the Government has taken various export promotion measures which include reduction in transaction cost through decentralization, simplification of procedures and various other measures as enumerated in the Export-Import Policy. Steps have also been taken to promote exports through multilateral and bilateral initia*ves, identification of thrust sector and focus regions. Special Economic Zones are being set up to give a boost to our expoits.